

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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SUBJECT: EC-GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, APRIL 28, 1975: GREECE
NOW ASSOCIATED WITH NINE INSTEAD OF SIX

1. BEGIN SUMMART: THE EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MET
AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 28. A PROTOCOL
TO THE EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED
EXPANDING THE AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE THE THREE NEW EC MEMBER
STATES. IN ADDITION, AN INTERIM AGREEMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE
JLY 1, 1975 WAS SIGNED MAKING POSSIBLE THE GRADUAL ACHIEVE-
MENT OF A FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND THE
THREE NEW MEMBER STATES. GREECE REQUESTED THE NEGOTIATION
OF A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL WHICH IT HOPES WOULD PROVIDE
FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR HUNDRED MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT
(\$500 MILLION) OVER FIVE YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. EXPANSION OF EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT:
PRIOR TO THE FORMAL MEETING OF THE EC/GREECE ASSOCIA-
TION COUNCIL, THE COMMUNITY SIGNED WITH GREECE A
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PROTOCOL EXPANDING THE TREATY OF ASSOCIATION TO

INCLUDE THE THREE NEW EC MEMBER STATES. THIS PROTOCOL IS TO COME INTO FORCE AFTER THE NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATIONS.

3. THE AMBASSADORS ALSO SIGNED AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH WILL MAKE THE COMMERCIAL PROVISIONS OF THE NEW PROTOCOL APPLICABLE ON JULY 1 WHETHER OR NOT THE PROTOCOL HAS ITSELF BEEN RATIFIED AT THAT TIME. THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE GRADUAL ACHIEVEMENT OF FREE TRADE BETWEEN GREECE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, DENMARK AND IRELAND. IN ADDITION, THE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES TEMPORARY WINE IMPORT QUOTAS FOR 1975-76.

4. STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION:
DURING THE COURSE OF THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR STATHOTOS, SAID THAT WHILE THE "FREEZING" OF THE ASSOCIATION BEFORE THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE HAD NOT COMPROMISED THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A CUSTOMS UNION BETWEEN THE EC AND GREECE, IT HAD HINDERED DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT. HE PARTICULARLY MENTIONED AGRICULTURAL HARMONIZATION AND ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION, CONTENDING THAT AN IMBALANCE TO THE DETRIMENT OF GREECE NOW EXISTED AS A RESULT OF THE "FREEZING" OF RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THIS IMBALANCE SHOULD BE CORRECTED BY A SPEEDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION TIMETABLE ESPECIALLY AS REGARDS VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

5. THE EC AND GREECE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO MAKE EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE TO A SATISFACTORY CONCLUSION THREE SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCERN:

A. WINE: UNDER THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, QUOTAS WERE AGREED UNDER WHICH GREEK WINES WILL CONTINUE TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY UNTIL THE END OF 1976. BY THEN IT IS HOPED THAT SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON HARMONIZING PRACTICES AND THE ELIMINATION OF QUOTAS.

B. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DURING THE "FREEZE", ARE TO BE RELAUNCHED CONCERNING CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE EC REGIME FOR IMPORT OF GREEK FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. THIS RELATES PRIMARILY TO CALCULATION OF MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES.

C. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: GREECE HAS REQUESTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN ON A NEW PROTOCOL CONCERNING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. THE GREEKS

HAVE SUGGESTED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TOTALING
APPROXIMATELY 400 HUNDRED MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT
OVER FIVE YEARS--EXCLUSIVE OF INTEREST CHARGES.
THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD BE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL,
AGRICULTURAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.

6. THE COMMUNITY WELCOMED DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK
PLACE AT THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL SAYING THAT THEY INTEND
TO GIVE FURTHER STUDY TO ALL OT THE SUBJECTS WHICH
HAD BEEN RAISED. GREENWALD

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